

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. The specification has been amended to provide cross-reference to related patent applications and claims have been cancelled due to a Restriction Requirement issued in U.S. Patent Application No. 00/780,295. No new matter has been added.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 299002052010. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: February 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By _____
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